

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A rubber composition comprising (i) an incompatible polymer blend comprising at least two diene-based rubbers selected from the group consisting of rubbers containing at least one conjugated diene monomer and, optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and forming two polymer phases (A) and (B) and (ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by weight, based upon 100 parts by weight of the total polymer component including a block copolymer, of the block copolymer having at least two mutually incompatible blocks (a) and (b), in which the block (a) is compatible with the polymer phase (A) and incompatible with the polymer phase (B) and the block (b) is compatible with the polymer phase (B) and incompatible with the polymer phase (A), and comprising at least one conjugated diene monomer and, optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and (iii) 5 to 200 parts by weight, based upon 100 parts by weight of the block copolymer, of a polymer ( $\alpha$ ) compatible with the block (a) and the polymer phase (A), a polymer ( $\beta$ ) compatible with the block (b) and polymer phase (B) and a mixture of the polymer ( $\alpha$ ) and the polymer ( $\beta$ ), wherein the weight average molecular weights of the polymers ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) satisfy the following equations

(III) and (IV):

$$Mw(\alpha)/Mw(a) \leq 1.2 \quad (III)$$

$$Mw(\beta)/Mw(b) \leq 1.2 \quad (IV)$$

wherein  $Mw(\alpha)$ : weight average molecular weight of polymer ( $\alpha$ ),

Mw( $\beta$ ) weight average molecular weight of polymer ( $\beta$ ),

Mw(a): weight average molecular weight of block (a) of block copolymer, and

Mw(b): weight average molecular weight of block (b) of block copolymer.

9. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said diene rubbers are NR, IR, BR, SBR, SIR and SIBR.

10. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein a weight ratio of polymer phase (A)/polymer phase (B) is 90/10 to 10/90.

11. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said block copolymer contains at least two blocks selected from the group consisting of BR block, SBR block, IR block, SIR block, BIR block and SBIR block.

12. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein a weight ratio of block (a)/block (b) is 80/20 to 20/80.

13. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said polymers ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) are selected from IR, BR, SBR and SIBR.

14. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition consisting essentially of (I) 100 parts by weight of a block copolymer having at least two mutually incompatible blocks (a) and (b) and composed of at least one conjugated diene monomer and,

optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and (II) 5 to 200 parts by weight of (i) a polymer ( $\alpha$ ) compatible with the block (a), (ii) a polymer ( $\beta$ ) compatible with the block (b) or (iii) a mixture of the polymer ( $\alpha$ ) and the polymer ( $\beta$ ), wherein said polymers ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) are selected from IR, BR, SBR and SIBR, and wherein the weight average molecular weights of the polymers ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) satisfy the following equations (III) and (IV):

$$\cancel{Mw(\alpha) / Mw(a) \leq 1.2} \quad \underline{0.3 \leq Mw(\alpha) / Mw(a) \leq 1.0} \quad (III)$$

$$\cancel{Mw(\beta) / Mw(b) \leq 1.2} \quad \underline{0.3 \leq Mw(\beta) / Mw(b) \leq 1.0} \quad (IV)$$

wherein  $Mw(\alpha)$ : weight average molecular weight of polymer ( $\alpha$ ),

$Mw(\beta)$ : weight average molecular weight of polymer ( $\beta$ ),

$Mw(a)$ : weight average molecular weight of block (a) of block copolymer,

and

$Mw(b)$ : weight average molecular weight of block (b) of block copolymer,

wherein said block copolymer contains at least two blocks (a) and (b) selected from the group consisting of BR block, SBR block, IR block, SIR block, BIR block and SBIR block.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of block (a)/block (b) is 80/20 to 20/80.

Claim 17 (Canceled)